

THE THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11.
HONOLULU, November 26, 1875.

REV. S. C. DAMON—Dear Sir: The undersigned tender their warm thanks for the eloquent, instructive and appropriate discourse delivered by you on Thanksgiving Day; and request a copy of the same for publication.

With great respect and kind regards,
Henry A. Peirce, B. F. Dillingham,
J. Scott, Alex. J. Cartwright,
S. N. Castle, Joseph B. Atherton,
H. A. P. Carter, E. P. Adams,
P. C. Jones, Jr.

CENTENNIAL Thanksgiving Discourse. 1775-1875.

PREACHED IN FORT ST. CHURCH, NOV. 25, 1875.
By Rev. S. C. Damon.

JOHN: viii, 8. "For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the search of thy fathers."
ECCLESIASTES: vii, 10. "Say not, then, What is the cause that the former days are better than these? For thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this."

Gathered in accordance with a time-honored custom hallowed by the most precious ancestral and historic memories of two hundred and fifty years, most heartily we can respond to the sentiment expressed in President Grant's proclamation: "Amid the rich and free enjoyment of all our advantages, we should not forget the source from whence they are derived, and the extent of our obligations to the Father of all Mercies. We have full reason to renew our thanks to Almighty God for favors bestowed upon us during the past year." We do not forget that one year ago efforts were being put forth to secure a treaty of reciprocity, and that His Majesty was about starting upon his visit to the land of our fathers. Among the blessings which we are now called upon to recognize are the happy return of the King and the almost certain assurance that hereafter our Island Kingdom will be brought into more intimate and closer commercial alliance with the great North American Republic. Out of this closer alliance in commerce it is fondly hoped and expected great and incalculable blessings will ultimately flow. No longer are our islands to remain isolated but must necessarily be drawn into intimate union with not only America, but the world. As a recent writer remarks, "Every day the world grows more international. There are now no foreign lands." The unity of the human race is becoming more and more an accepted fact in reality, if not an acknowledged fact in philosophy.

While the blessings of the past year are quite sufficient to call forth our warmest expressions of thanksgiving, yet we cannot if we would confine our thoughts to a record of the mercies of a single year. The very atmosphere is freighted with centennial memories; our current literature is saturated with centennial discussions. The people are alive with preparations for what they are pleased to style the Great Centennial. Not only are the American people interested and awake, but every civilized nation on earth is preparing to send forward its full quota of contributions. The year of our Lord 1876 as well as the year 1776, is destined to mark an era in the history of not only America, but the wide world. The busy hum of preparation comes murmuring on every breeze that sweeps the ocean, or is floated over the land. It is a matter of rejoicing that our little kingdom is preparing to join in the grand celebration. Surely if there is a spot territorially foreign to America which ought to join in this gathering of the nations, it is the Kingdom of Hawaii. One century ago our islands were literally *terra incognita* to the civilized world. Just one hundred years ago in the summer of 1775, Cook returned from his second voyage of discovery around the world. Preparations were soon made for his third and last voyage, when our islands were to be discovered and the celebrated navigator was to find his last resting place in Kealahou Bay.

As the stirring events of 1775 are thus naturally introduced and made signally prominent, I propose, in order to awaken in our minds emotions of thanksgiving on this occasion, to notice not the events of 1875, but those of 1775.

Let us for a few moments forget that the world has been advancing for the last century, and endeavor to look out upon the world as it appeared to those living in England and America in 1775. As America was then colonial territory, it is natural for us to look away to the mother country and Europe. Americans in those days had a warm affection for the land of their fathers, which has by no means died out amid all the conflicts of a century of war, diplomacy, negotiation and arbitration.

When the struggle between England and her colonies commenced, history records the fact that the colonists were cast aloof with many hard misgivings. It was England—George III and his ministry with Lord North at the head, which forced independence upon the thirteen colonies. Oh, how hard Franklin strove to effect a reconciliation during the six years spent in Europe from 1770 to 1775! Writes Bancroft, "American statesmen had struggled to avoid a separation which neither the indefatigable zeal of Samuel Adams, nor the eloquence of John Adams, nor the sympathetic spirit of Jefferson could have brought about. The king was the author of American independence." (Vol. 8, pp. 174-5.)

Almost every political principle contended for by the American colonists has since been acknowledged as sound and conceded by the mother country to her other colonists. Vessels of war and transports conveyed thousands of soldiers to dragoon the colonists into submission—and mercenary Hessian soldiers were forced from their homes in Germany to fight on American soil.

ENGLAND, 1775.

Let us glance at the condition of England. Who were some of the prominent characters then alive in England, and whose names have been handed down on the page of history to our day? First and foremost stood the king, George III. He had been fifteen years upon the throne. Burke, the great orator, statesman and friend of the colonies, was at the zenith of his powers, being just forty-five years of age. Dr. Johnson was an old man of seventy-six; he had employed his pen to defame the colonists. His great dictionary had not been published. Pitt, the younger, son of the Great Commoner in 1775, was a youth of sixteen, studying hard at Cambridge University. Wilberforce was a youth of the same age with Pitt, but a thoughtless and gay young man, who had not as yet come under the influence of the writings of Doddridge, and had given no indications of possessing those grand powers of mind, character and heart, which place him at the head of that noble band of reformers who freed the British Empire and America of slaves. Howard, the philanthropist, was then high sheriff of the County of Bedford, having under his charge the very prison where Bunyan wrote his immortal work, and where but recently the Duke of Bedford has erected a statue to the prince of Dreamers. Burns was also a youth of the same age with Pitt and Wilberforce, assisting his father to cultivate the soil of Ayrshire, and while abroad in the fields coquetting with a bonnie lass. "The tones of her voice," he once said to Sir Walter Scott, "made my heart strings thrill like an Eolian harp." Scott, by the way, was then a child of five years old. Hannah More was at the head of her female seminary in Bristol, laboring with her sisters to elevate the standard of female education in England. She then gave the cause an impulse, which it has not yet lost. Lovers of female education in Europe and America and the world, can hardly appreciate their obligations to Hannah More and her sisters. The founders of Vassar, South Hadley, Mills Seminary, and other institutions of a kindred character and high standing are under lasting obligations to Hannah More. Whitfield, the prince of pulpit orators in 1775, had been dead five years. Thirteen times had he crossed the Atlantic, and as he had labored so earnestly in both the old and new world, it was fitting that as he was born in Old England, he should find his grave in New England. Whitfield was dead, but not Wesley—although seventy-two years of age, yet had sixteen more years of arduous labor in store for his Master. What a life was Wesley's and what an influence he exerted upon the world, and it is yearly increasing! No prime minister of England ever displayed greater administration and organizing ability in the state, than did Wesley in the church. The poet Cowper was then living quietly at Olney, suffering

under that terrible malady which beclouded his reason for so many years, but was carefully nursed by his ever faithful friends Mrs. Unwin and Rev. John Newton. Hume had but one year more of life, dying in 1776, while Goldsmith had passed away in 1774. Gibbon was writing the history of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, so was Robertson that of America. Paley was a fellow with Pitt at Cambridge, while Lord Nelson was a midshipman of seventeen.

Before crossing the Atlantic to glance at affairs in America, I desire to call your attention to four boys who were each six years old in the year 1775. At the mention of their names, what visions of war, carnage, revolution and progress rise to view! Their historic names are Napoleon Bonaparte, Duke of Wellington, Mohammed Ali of Egypt, and the philosopher Humboldt, author of "Cosmos." In the year 1775 Napoleon was a youth in Corsica, the Duke of Wellington an Irish lad, Mohammed Ali a shepherd youth in regions of Albania, and Humboldt was studying in the primary schools of Germany. In 1775, who could have foretold the illustrious careers of these four boys? The first destined to dictate terms to all the courts of Europe and overthrow thrones long established, but ere long to be conquered by the second and find his grave on a lone island in the Atlantic, while the third made the Turkish empire totter, and unless he had been restrained by the combined fleets of Europe, might have himself become master of the "Sublime Porte." It was the destiny of the fourth to become the great explorer of nature in the new world and to die honored by kings and scholars.

The middle of the latter half of the eighteenth century was a period of great religious depression and inactivity in England, except as the dead formalism of the Church of England and the Deism of the age were assailed by Whitfield, Wesley and their associates.

AMERICAN COLONIES, 1775.

Let us now in imagination leave the old world, and crossing the Atlantic endeavor to form a correct idea of the state of political affairs in America. The battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill were fought during the year 1775, and their centennial celebrations have awakened an unwonted spirit of enthusiasm and loyalty among the American people. So far as the size of armies and the number of soldiers slain upon the battle fields are concerned, they were small and inferior engagements, but still they were decisive battles. Great issues resulted from those conflicts; they commenced a bloody struggle destined to sever forever the thirteen colonies from the mother country and establish the new republic of America. Insignificant as those battles may have been compared with the great battles of Europe and subsequent battles in America, yet they were the birth-throes of a great nation struggling to gain an existence among the nations of the earth. Bear in mind, however, that the Declaration of Independence had not been written; the continental congress was in secret session in Philadelphia. Washington had left the quiet fields of Mount Vernon and was in command of the undisciplined army gathered around Boston, besieging the British troops in that city, from which they dare not venture forth. The autumn of 1775, or just one century ago, was a most dark and gloomy season for both the colonists and the army sent over to enforce obedience. Neither party knew what to do. The period of negotiation and compromise was at an end, yet who was able to lead forth the thirteen colonies to the land of Promise? There were three million of people full of enthusiasm and patriotism, yet they were without a national and central organization; they were without military leaders or the sinews of war. They had formed no foreign alliances, but were resolved however to be free, yet how was the grand achievement to be accomplished? A peep beneath the surface of society often gives a correct idea of what is passing in public affairs. On the 27th of November, 1775, Mrs. Adams, the wife of John Adams, subsequently President of the United States, thus wrote in a private letter to her husband, then a member of the continental congress in Philadelphia; the letter was written from Braintree, Mass., within hearing of the booming guns of the English army in Boston: "If we separate from Great Britain, what code of laws shall be established? How shall we be governed so as to retain our liberty? Can any government be free which is not administered by general stated laws? Who shall form our laws? Who shall give them force and energy? It is true your resolutions as a body have hitherto had the force of laws. But will they continue to have them? When I consider these things and the prejudices of the people in favor of ancient customs and regulations, I feel anxious for the fate of our monarchy or democracy, or whatever is to take place. I soon get lost in a labyrinth of perplexities, but whatever shall take place, may justice and righteousness be the stability of our times, and order rise out of confusion. Great difficulties may be surmounted by patience and perseverance."

Mr. Adams replies: "As to what passes in congress, I am tied fast by my honor to communicate nothing. But I never will come here again without you, if I can persuade you to come with me. We will bring master Johnny with us, and we will be as happy as Mr. Hancock and his lady. Thank John for his letters; John writes like a hero glowing with the ardor of his country and burning with indignation against her enemies."

The Johnny here referred to was none other than John Quincy, who was then a lad in his teens. All the dread realities of a civil war were pressing heavily upon the colonists in their state of disorder. They were hopeful and enthusiastic, but still somewhat bewildered. As the year 1775 drew to a close the clouds settled down thicker, gloomier and heavier. An expedition, fitted out to conquer Canada, had proved a failure under the leadership of Benedict Arnold. The sad news of defeat was accompanied with the intelligence of the death of General Montgomery, one of the most popular generals in the American army. At the news of his death, it is said, "the whole city of Philadelphia was in tears." Congress proclaimed abroad his valor and virtues, and caused to be reared a marble monument to Richard Montgomery. Burke in parliament pronounced upon him a noble eulogium. "Yet," replied Lord North, "I cannot join in lamenting the death of Montgomery as a public loss. He was brave, he was able, he was humane, he was generous; but still he was only a brave, able, humane and generous rebel. Curse on his virtues; they've undone his country." Fox retorted: "The term rebel is no certain mark of disgrace. All the great asserters of liberty, the saviors of their country, the benefactors of mankind in all ages, have been called rebels. We owe the constitution which enables us to sit in this house, to a rebellion."

As we partially raise the historic curtain and glance at passing events on both sides of the Atlantic, during the year 1775, we see many brave and noble men taking a part in that mighty struggle, which was not to end until America should achieve her independence. As an illustration of the spirit animating the colonists, let me call your attention to a vote passed by the Assembly of Massachusetts in Dec. 1775. An Act was passed for emitting bills of credit to the amount of £50,000 sterling. On the back of each bill was a device of an American, with sword in his right hand, upon which was inscribed a Latin motto, meaning,—the sword seeks quiet rest under liberty.—*Ensi petit placidam sub libertate quietem*.—and from his left hand was displayed the motto, *Magna Charta*, while around the figure were the words, "Issued in defence of American Liberty." Thus, while the colonists were seeking their political independence, they did not forget the good old *Magna Charta* extorted from King John at Runnymede, which all true Englishmen, at home and abroad, so highly honor and prize. The American colonies of 1775 were, in spirit, Englishmen, in the best and truest meaning of that term. They were lineal descendants of that long line of patriots and friends of civil and religious freedom who have stood forth at the critical periods in English history, and manfully contended for true liberty under law and order. The words of Webster are as true now as when uttered forty years ago in the Senate of the United States: "There is Boston, and Concord, and Lexington, and Bunker Hill, and there they will remain forever. Where American Liberty raised her first voice and where its youth was nurtured and sustained, there it still lives, in the strength of its manhood and full of its original spirit." I would add, that it not only lives, but the spirit of liberty then bursting into life and subsequently becoming crystallized on the 4th of July, 1776, in the Declaration of Independence, has gone forth blessing the world for a hundred years. Its pulsations have been felt in the Old World. France was the first to respond, while other nations have since felt its vivifying power.

A WORLD-WIDE VIEW.
I claim for our beloved country that she has been performing a noble mission among the nations of the earth. Glance at a map of the world and reflect upon the changes and revolutions which have taken place during the one hundred years since the birth of the Republic of America. There has been an uprising, not only of one, but many nations. Old and oppressive feudal institutions have been abolished. The nations now breathe more free and unembarrassed. The down-trodden millions now enjoy social, civil, political and religious rights and privileges, which were then denied them. America has performed her part in this great work of a world's political regeneration. "Say not then, what is the cause that the former times are better than these? For thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this." The former times,—the former ages,—the former centuries,—were not better than this! No, in no wise. The world is not growing worse, but better; and one day in the year is not too much or too frequent for a national or a world's Thanksgiving. Some speak of "lost arts," and argue that much knowledge has perished from among men. The ancient Egyptians may have understood the principle of handling vast blocks of granite more readily than succeeding generations. Some arts relating to metals and precious stones may be lost, but I maintain that nothing really valuable has ever perished from among the nations, and now—to-day—the civilized and Christian world occupies a vantage ground vastly higher than during any former generation. Foremost in the front among the advanced nations stands America, with President Grant at its head, who has issued a Christian Proclamation, in compliance with which we are this morning convened. Not only in his Proclamation has the President given utterance to Christian sentiments, but in a recent speech addressed to his old comrades in war has he uttered most brave words, worthy of the head of a great Christian Republic: "On this centennial year the work of strengthening the foundations of the structure commenced by our forefathers a hundred years ago at Lexington, should be begun. Let us labor for the security of free thought, free speech, progress, pure morals, and equal rights and privileges for all men, irrespective of nationality, or religion, encourage free schools, and resolve that not a dollar appropriated to them shall be applied to the support of any sectarian school. Leave the matter of religion to the family altar. Keep Church and State forever separated." Well may we feel proud to belong to a nation whose Chief Magistrate utters sentiments like these. They are noble, brave and Christian, harmonizing with those of Paul on Mars Hill. In no ill defined and half-suppressed language is America a Christian nation. If there is a Christian nation on earth, I claim that America is that nation. As such her influence is world-wide. Her Christian Missionaries and Evangelists are going abroad into all the earth. They are not only going to heathen nations, sustained by Missionary Societies, but some are visiting Europe, where a welcome is accorded to them most cordial. Never were the heralds of gospel truth doing more bravely their work than at the present time. A careful review of the progress of Christian ideas and sentiments, during the past hundred years, in Europe, America and throughout the world, is calculated to inspire hope and confidence in the hearts of all who are laboring for the ultimate spread of Christianity among the nations of the earth.

THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF AMERICA, AND THE WORLD.

It is in no spirit of vanity and boasting that I would invite you to contemplate the Republic of America, having, in one hundred years, increased in population from three to forty millions of free men. As a nation, it is a power in the world, and never was that power more sensibly felt than when rent by civil war. The agitation thereby caused was felt among the remotest nations on the globe, and the commotion has not yet ceased. One day's fighting of a Monitor in James' River, revolutionized all the naval armaments of the world. Not only American ideas have proved revolutionary in warfare, but in politics, commerce, and religion. The simple idea of separation of Church and State, so firmly established in America, cannot long be confined to the American world, but must revolutionize the nations. Coming events are now casting most ominous shadows over the Old World. The issue cannot be avoided or averted. It is a most gratifying fact that accompanying the awakened spirit of commerce, trade, manufactures, discoveries in mechanics, progress in steam and the telegraph, there is not wanting religious activity and an earnest desire to promote the cause of missions among heathen nations. A.D. 1875 stands in marked contrast with 1775. One hundred years ago the church universal was well nigh asleep, so far as regards efforts for the conversion of the world. All the foreign missionary and Bible Societies of both Europe and America, have been called into existence during the past one hundred years. One century ago, only one edition of the Bible had ever been published in America, that being Elliot's Bible in the Indian language of Massachusetts. Now the American Bible, and British and Foreign Bible Societies are printing the sacred volume in over two hundred languages and dialects. Missionaries from these two nations have reduced forty different languages to written forms. The gospel is now being preached, for a witness, in almost every nation. The leaven of evangelistic truth is rapidly permeating all parts of the globe. These are facts for which it is becoming to give thanks on an occasion like the present when the past century or centuries come under review. We have surely no occasion to say, "former days were better than these." A review of the past inspires us with hope and confidence to go forth and meet the shadowy and unknown future with a firm and manly heart. Who can predict what glorious events may result during the coming century from causes now in active operation? Seed has been cast abroad among the nations of the earth which will ere long yield a glorious harvest. God hath said by the mouth of His prophet Isaiah, that it shall not return void: "For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth. It shall not come to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Such a promise or pledge as this is full of encouragement. God's hand may be discerned in the history of America and the world. He is leading, not only one, but all nations forward to a grand and glorious result. The stone cut out of the mountain without hands was seen to become a great mountain and fill the whole world, so the Kingdom of Christ is yet to be established over all the earth. Whoever is upon the earth at the end of another century to review the history of America and the world, will doubtless witness marvelous and glorious results.

These results may not be unaccompanied with wars and revolutions, but out of these conflicts are sure to arise regenerated nations and a re-deemed church. We have no occasion to entertain anxious fears respecting the final issue of all these conflicts. Our world is yet to enjoy a millennial reign of prosperity and peace. To this sublime consummation now tend the converging lines of those moral and spiritual agencies which have, for many long centuries, been running almost parallel and leading unreflective and sceptical minds to infer that God's hand did not control the destiny of nations and the world. Favored, in standing on this mount of vision, with the past, present and future in view, at the close of the nineteenth century, we may well nerve ourselves manfully to the work assigned to us by the Providence of God, and most cheerfully and hopefully pass over to the rising generation pressing so closely upon our rear, the torch of Science and Art, the banner of Liberty and Civilization, and the blood-stained standard of the Church,—the Cross of Christ,—towering o'er the wrecks of time."

SPECIAL NOTICE.

WANTED, THREE GOOD CABINET MAKERS and French Polishers. Apply soon at 88 King Street. (de4 3t) M. T. DONNELLY.

NOTICE.

ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE of the late J. B. SCHUMAKER, deceased, must be presented forthwith at the office of W. C. PARRE, Honolulu, Dec. 2, 1875. (de4 3t)

Manufacturing Jeweler.

NOTICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED, FORMERLY WITH Mr. Eckart, begs to inform citizens of Honolulu and the public generally, that he has taken the store on Ford Street, opposite Old Fellows Hall, (formerly occupied by Thos. Tannatt), where he will give special attention to the manufacturing and repairing of all kinds of jewelry. Particular attention given to Shell and Kukul Work. Will guarantee satisfaction in all his work. Honolulu, Nov. 27th, 1875. (no27) WM. M. WENNER.